

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-07 AID-05 EB-08
TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 OMB-01 SSM-03 /107 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, SA, ET, YS, YE

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA CONCERNING SOMALIA

REF: A) JIDDA 2550, B) SANA 1222

1. THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN REF A ARE VERY CLOSE TO THE
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VIEWS WE HOLD REGARDING SOMALIA AS THE POLICY REVIEW
COMMITTEE PREPARES TO CONSIDER THE RESPONSE TO PRM/NSC- 21
ON THE HORN OF AFRICA. CONSEQUENTLY, YOU SHOULD INITIATE
CONSULTATIONS WITH THE SAG WITH THE AIM OF COORDINATING
OUR RESPECTIVE POLICIES WITH REGARD TO SOMALIA.

2. FYI: YOU SHOULD, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, AVOID DIS-

CUSSING US POLICY TOWARD ETHIOPIA AS IT MAY DIFFER SOMEWHAT FROM SAUDI VIEWS OUTLINED REF A. WE MAY ALSO DIFFER WITH THE SAUDIS IN REGARD TO DJIBOUTI IF THEY SHARE THE CONSENSUS VIEW OF THE TAIZ CONFEREES (REF B) THAT SOME KIND OF AN ORGANIC LINK BETWEEN SOMALIA AND DJIBOUTI MIGHT BE POSSIBLE WITHIN FIVE YEARS TIME. HINTS THAT SUCH A LINK WAS BEING FAVORABLY CONSIDERED BY OTHER AREA COUNTRIES MIGHT PROVOKE AN ETHIOPIAN REACTION WHICH COULD FURTHER DESTABILIZE REGION. END FYI.

3. RETURN OF PRINCE SAUD FROM APRIL 5-7 VISIT TO MOGADISCIO WOULD SEEM APPROPRIATE MOMENT FOR INITIATING CONSULTATIONS WITH HIM OR OTHER SUITABLE SAUDI OFFICIALS CONCERNING THE HORN. IN ADDITION TO SEEKING SAUDI ASSESSMENTS OF EFFECT OF PODGORNÝ VISIT TO MOGADISCIO, YOU SHOULD DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS:

A. WE APPRECIATE THE SECURITY CONCERNS OF SAUDI ARABIA IN THE HORN REGION BROUGHT ABOUT BY SOVIET ACTIVITY THERE.

B. WE BELIEVE THAT OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS SHOULD COORDINATE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE CONCERNING OUR POLICIES AND ACTIONS CONCERNING SOMALIA.

C. WITH REGARD TO DJIBOUTI, THE USG FAVORS AN INDEPENDENT AND VIABLE DJIBOUTI WHICH MAINTAINS GOOD RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA, SOMALIA AND OTHER NEIGHBORS AND SERVES THE COMMON INTEREST IN REGIONAL STABILITY.

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D. THE SOMALIS HAVE APPROACHED US TO SEEK ASSURANCE THAT THEIR ECONOMIC AND MILITARY REQUIREMENTS WOULD BE MET IF THEY ALTERED THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE USSR. WE HAVE NOT REPLIED, AS YET, TO SOMALIA'S REQUEST BUT WE WANT TO BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE.

E. IN THE PAST, THE US HAS SEEN LITTLE HOPE FOR A SIGNIFICANT SHIFT IN SOMALIA'S ORIENTATION IN THE ABSENCE OF A SITUATION WHICH WOULD MAKE SOMALIA QUESTION ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION. THE PROVISION OF SOVIET ARMS TO ETHIOPIA, SOMALIA'S HEREDITARY ENEMY, APPEARS TO HAVE PROVIDED THE HERETOFORE MISSING ELEMENT.

F. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE SAG IS CONSIDERING THE APPLICATION OF SUBSTANTIAL RESOURCES IN AN EFFORT TO PRY SOMALIA AWAY FROM THE SOVIET EMBRACE. FOR OUR PART, WE ARE ACTIVELY CONSIDERING HOW WE MIGHT RE-PROGRAM FY 77 AID FUNDS TO PROVIDE SOMALIA WITH SOME ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE THIS FISCAL YEAR. IT WILL BE FAR SHORT OF SOMALI DESIRES,

BUT IT WILL, WE HOPE, BE A CONCRETE INDICATION OF OUR INTEREST IN THE GSDR AND SUPPORT FOR THE MODERATE ARAB EFFORT. GIVEN THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE BULK OF THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES WHICH MIGHT BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE SOMALIS WOULD COME FROM THE SAUDIS, WE WOULD WELCOME THEIR VIEWS CONCERNING THE MOST EFFECTIVE APPLICATION WHICH MIGHT BE MADE OF THE LIMITED US RESOURCES.

G. IN THE MILITARY FIELD, WE RECOGNIZE SOMALIA'S NEED TO PROVIDE FOR ITS LEGITIMATE DEFENSE NEEDS. UNTIL WE COMPLETE OUR OVERALL REVIEW OF US ARMS TRANSFER POLICY WE CANNOT ADDRESS THIS NEED. WE ARE ALSO LOOKING INTO WHAT NON-US SOURCES OF ARMS MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TO SOMALIA.

H. WE ARE CONSIDERING REQUESTING SOMALIA'S APPROVAL FOR A US NAVY SHIP VISIT IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND REITERATING AN EARLIER REQUEST FOR RELAXATION OF THEIR TRAVEL
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RESTRICTIONS ON OUR PERSONNEL IN SOMALIA IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE GSDR WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO DEMONSTRATE IN TANGIBLE WAYS THEIR INTEREST IN IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH US.

I. MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE SAG'S VIEWS AS TO WHAT CHANGES IN SOMALIA'S BEHAVIOR AND ORIENTATION MAY BE REALISTICALLY EXPECTED, GIVEN THEIR PRESENT HEAVY DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVIETS, AND WHAT SOMALI ACTIONS WOULD MERIT WHAT FORM AND LEVEL OF SAUDI REWARDS. WE WOULD WELCOME ANY INFORMATION YOU CAN ELICIT ABOUT EXTENT TO WHICH SAG WILLING FINANCE SOMALIS. FYI: WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF THE PAY-NOW-AND-HOPE-FOR-CHANGE-LATER APPROACH (DESCRIBED IN REF A WITH RESPECT TO PDRY) MIGHT BE APPLIED TO SOMALIA AS WELL. END FYI.
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